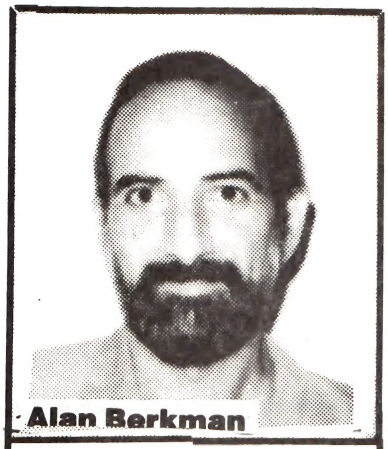
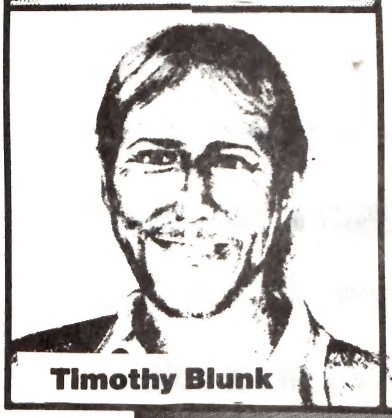
RESISTANCE = CONSPIRACY?


Alan Berkman


Timothy Blunk

On May 11, 1988 we were indicted for seeking "to influence, change, and protest policies and practices of the United States government concerning various international and domestic matters through the use of violent and illegal means." The indictment charges us with conspiracy and with aiding and abetting the bombings of a number of military and governmental buildings—resulting in property damage but no injuries to anyone. Each of us charged in this indictment has committed our life to fighting for social justice and to extending solidarity to national liberation movements around the world. Each one of us has been involved in supporting the struggle for Black liberation / New Afrikan independence and for Puerto Rican independence. We have participated in and supported the movement for women's liberation, and sought an end to gay and lesbian oppression. We have been anti-imperialist activists for many years. This has been our life's work, and it has brought us into continuing conflict with the US government. It has also linked us with millions of people around the world who struggle for freedom and against exploitation. Fighting against poverty and oppression, and inspired by a vision of collective and personal liberation, people from South Africa to Palestine to Central America to the ghettos of the United States are struggling to change the conditions of their lives. With them we say:

Marilyn Buck

Linda Evans

NO JUSTICE NO PEACE!

Susan Rosenberg

Laura Whitehorn

WHAT ARE THESE POLICES AND PRACTICES WE OPPOSE?

- The US practice of slaughtering thousands of Nicaraguan civilians through the proxy contra army
- The US invasion of Grenada, the first Black socialist non-aligned nation in this hemisphere
- The US policy of establishing brutal dictatorships in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Chile that murder their own people to make their countries safe for US investment
- 90 years of US colonization of Puerto Rico
- The US policy of aiding and abetting the racist governments of Israel & South Africa
- The centuries-old practice of racial genocide and oppression of Black, Puerto Rican, Mexican, Asian and Native American peoples here, and of promoting racism and racist violence
- The US government's denial that Prisoners of War and political prisoners are held in US jails, targeted for isolation and destruction

DO WE WANT TO CHANGE THESE POLICIES? WHOLEHEARTEDLY. . .

They violate every tenet of international law and human decency. They cause death, destruction, poverty and suffering for millions. It is a disgrace that we, the people of the United States, allow our government to pursue them. To do nothing is to become tacit accomplices in these crimes and practices!

If political prisoners can be treated as less than human, as outside the bounds of human human decency— how will other sectors of the community be treated when their voices become too loud?

The Reagan Administration wants our prosecution to serve as a warning to those who demand justice & human rights.

Each of us has been an anti-imperialist political prisoner for more than three years. We have been condemned to sentences as long as 75 years. Laura Whitehorn is now the longest-held political prisoner in "preventive detention." We have battled cancer, psychological torture, and isolation, buried in the worst prisons in the United States along with hundreds of Black/New Afrikan, Puerto Rican, Native American and Northamerican political prisoners and prisoners of war. We are neither terrorists nor criminals. We are guilty of NO criminal activity • Now we face these new charges. They were brought more than three years and 14 prosecutions after the last of us was arrested. The charges are couched in language that targets our politics and association. The government makes no claim to know actually did the bombings. The Reagan administration wants to stage a show trial that will not only have a chilling effect on activists here, but will also divert attention from the North/Poindexter trials going on down the hall from ours • We will fight this politically motivated indictment, but we expect no justice. We are each held in solitary confinement, unable to meet together or with our lawyers to prepare a defense. We, accused of acts of resistance against state terrorism by the US government, acts which themselves caused no casualties, are labeled "terrorists," forced to come to court draped in shackles, and displayed behind a bullet-proof plexiglass partition. North and Poindexter, whose actions merit a trial for war crimes and crimes against humanity, are called heroes by politicians, and come to court draped in the blessings of Ronald Reagan and with the benefit of millions of dollars from right-wing backers • The government is relentless in its pursuit of those whose love and concern extend across national and racial barriers, and whose commitment leads them to active resistance. That is why the Sanctuary and Plowshares movements have been targeted by the Reagan administration. That is why a group of Puerto Rican Independentistas are now facing charges in Hartford, Connecticut. That is why a group of working class anti-imperialist activists currently face sedition charges in Springfield, Massachusetts. That is why a New Afrikan Freedom Fighter, Dr. Mutulu Shakur, and one of us, Marilyn Buck, were recently tried in New York.

We say as long as this government tramples on the rights, the lives, & the dignity of human beings here or anywhere else in the world, there will always be resistance. That is not a criminal conspiracy —it is a movement of solidarity & resistance, of love & hope.

from the anti-imperialist political prisoners:

Alan Berkman

Timothy Blunk

Marilyn Buck

Linda Evans

Susan Rosenberg

Laura Whitehorn.

WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE FOR PRISONERS' RIGHTS
Post Office Box 28191, Washington, D.C. 20038-8191 **(202) 452-5924**